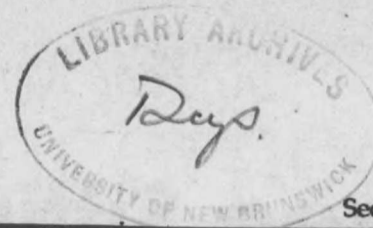


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CFS Supports Abortion - For Now

By Brunswickan Staff
Writer

Last week a number of representatives from UNB went to Ottawa to discuss several issues with the Canadian Federation of Students.

One of the issues brought up was abortion. The Women's Constituency, formerly known as the Women's Caucus brought up a policy to be voted on by the 62 schools that were present.

The policy went as follows: The Federation supports the fundamental right of all women to control their own bodies including:

- freedom of choice on the matter of reproduction;
- access to safe medical abortion procedures in an atmosphere of respect and support;
- abortion services paid by medicare as a medical procedure;
- guaranteed (universal) access, without restrictions, to family planning methods and abortions;
- education and information about sexual choices and responsibilities;
- (access to reproductive choice counseling);

Sixteen schools left the room, 22 voted in favor, 15 opposed the motion, and 9 abstained from voting. A policy needs 31 votes in favour in order to pass.

Another option was: opposition to the implementation of any criminal law concerning abortion.

In this policy, 27 voted in favor, 12 opposed the motion and 7 abstained. Like the first, this did not pass. UNB opposed both of these policies.

The Women's Constituency then presented a Directive that goes as follows; the Federation call upon the government to act upon the following points;

- 1) A national sexuality education program, with emphasis upon preventing unwanted pregnancy, must be given high priority, funding, and exposure;
- 2) Universal and easy access to birth control must be made available to all people;
- 3) Universal and easy access to abortion must be made available

to all women.

The majority of the schools voting, voted in favor of the Directive. UNB voted against the Directive.

The Directive will only last a year, where a policy will last for five years. Before CFS's policy was "Women students have the

right to control their own bodies including access to a full range of options and to be able to exercise freely whatever decision they make in the case of pregnancy (paraphrased)."

James Gill, VP of university Affairs, says that most schools want to find out what the

students' views on this issue are. UNB has not yet decided if a referendum among students will be done, but Gill thinks it is "the best way to go".

Present at the meeting from the UNB Student Union was Mark Lakewood, Chantelle Hanley, and Kate Rogers. Representatives

from the National Union of Students, International Students and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance were also present. In addition, Gary Clarke was present as a representative for CFS in New Brunswick.

Native of El Salvador Speaks at UNB

By Allan Carter

Raul Gutierrez, a Canadian Representative of Radio Farabundo Marti and a native of El Salvador; and Brent Anderson, National Co-ordinator for the RFM International Network in Canada, talked about the history and the present situation seen in El Salvador today concerning the rebel group Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

These lectures were on November 13 in McLaggan Hall and were presented through CHSR and sponsored by the UNB Student Union Speaker Series.

Anderson described the country as small with a very dense population of around 5.5 million people. The elite of El Salvador own the majority of the land and the conditions are very bad with much poverty. In El Salvador, he says, it is "very hard for people to make ends meet". He continued by saying people there are trying to "change things that we as Canadians take for granted".

He gave a brief description of FMLN and emphasized that it is a "political military organization".

Gutierrez described some of FMLN's proposals to the government of El Salvador and said the main objective of the organization is to "speed up results".

In September FMLN presented a peace proposal asking the government to put an end to all hostilities. Yet, as Gutierrez emphasized many times, the



Photo by Stephan MacGillivray

Raul Gutierrez and Brent Anderson talking to Jeff Whipple, station manager of CHSR-FM.

"government in El Salvador and (the) army are not interested in finding a political solution to the conflict".

After FMLN's second meeting with the government Gutierrez said that the only agreement that was reached was to have a consequent meeting. He said that the government still was not interested in a political solution, thus the FMLN increased the strength of their own military.

The FMLN will put pressure on the government to find a solution to the repression in El Salvador, claimed Gutierrez. He said that there is still heavy fighting going on in El Salvador. "Instead of trying to achieve a political solution to the conflict, what they are doing....they are bombing San Salvador". He said that approximately 30 people have been killed in the last two days and 25 have been wounded. He

feels the only ones to be blamed are the army and the government of El Salvador.

Anderson emphasized that the FMLN represents the people of El Salvador. He said that the FMLN called for a ten day cease fire and the army started attacking the people and the FMLN position.

A question and answer period followed the lectures on Monday.

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